

UNREVISED

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JOINT COMMITTEE
ON INDIAN CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

RECORDS

of the Joint Committee on

INDIAN CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

Die Martis, 18^o Julii, 1933

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Statement made to the Joint Committee and Delegates

by THE RIGHT HON. SIR SAMUEL HOARE, Bt., G.B.E., C.M.G., M.P.,
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA, ON TUESDAY THE 18TH JULY.

MY LORD CHAIRMAN,

I would like to make an observation about what has been happening outside the Committee during the last few days. I have noticed that both in India and here, certain answers that I have given have been taken out of their context, and have been used by our critics to imply that my general attitude is very different from what it really is. I was very conscious of the danger of a situation of this kind when I offered to give evidence to the Committee. Obviously, when I am freely and unreservedly answering questions upon every conceivable detail connected with the Constitution, there may be many isolated answers that I give that might be put into more cautious language. I have purposely adopted the line of telling both Members of the Committee and Indian Delegates exactly what is in my mind, and I have taken the risk of my answers being traduced in this manner. What I wish to say to-day is that I hope every reasonable person outside this Room, whether in India or whether in England, will treat my evidence as a whole and will not sink to an attempt to make Party capital out of an isolated answer, one way or the other. I feel it necessary to make that statement this morning in view of some of the very gross misrepresentations that have found their way into the Press as a result of our discussions.

The following observations were then made:—

Sir *Tej Bahadur Sapru*: My Lord Chairman, will you just allow me to say one word. I am very glad that Sir Samuel Hoare has made this statement, because during the last few days telegrams have been appearing from India in the London Press which have caused us much anxiety. I do not know in what light the evidence of Sir Samuel Hoare has been represented in India, but it is time that Sir Samuel Hoare did utter that warning, and I am glad that he has uttered that warning this morning.

Mr. *Zafrrulla Khan*: My Lord Chairman, I associate myself with what has been said by Sir *Tej Bahadur Sapru*. There is not the slightest doubt that we must take the whole of the evidence of the Secretary of State together. He is not nearly half way through his evidence yet. There is also not the slightest doubt that sometimes a series of questions directed only to one aspect of one particular matter are likely to create, when taken by themselves, a particular impression which may not be correct. I have also no doubt that when the time comes we shall place our various points of view before the Committee, and the evidence will then be appreciated in its proper light. In the meantime, I associate myself with the hope that no capital will be sought to be made out of particular portions of the evidence in any way whatsoever, because that would create difficulties for the Committee in the discharge of their onerous duties.

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AND DELEGATES.

Sir Austen Chamberlain: My Lord Chairman, may I add a word? I am sure that the Members of the Committee will desire to express their sympathy with the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State has taken a very unusual and indeed, I think, an unprecedented course in offering himself as a Witness before this Joint Select Committee, and meeting of Indian Delegates. It is a course requiring some courage, but of immense help to the Committee in its deliberations. The Secretary of State, I am sure, will have the support of the Committee, and though I have not the same right to speak for the Indian Delegates, I am sure of their support also in condemning any attempt to twist his answers for ulterior purposes or to represent him as other than he has been throughout—a responsible Minister defending a considered proposal to the best of his ability and with very great success.